Some notes on plants of Trans-pecos Texas

C. H. Mueller

During the summers of 1931, 1932, and 1933 the author collected plants in the Chisos Mountains of Western Texas over a total period of about six months. In the course of that time certain problems suggested themselves. The larger of these will be dealt with later as time permits, and only some minor ones will be given consideration here.

An abundant collection of *Fraxinus Greggii* Gray yielded such wide variation as to have caused a part of it to be identified as *F. nummularis* Jones. Standley in "Trees and Shrubs of Mexico"[1] allows *F. nummularis* specific rank but very pointedly suggests that it is but a form of *F. Greggii* bearing a reduced number of leaflets. The author's collections in Western Texas definitely bear out Mr. Standley's contention.

Fraxinus Greggii Gray (Proc. Am. Acad. 12: 63. 1877) is described in part as follows: "leaflets usually 5 or 7, . . . obtuse, glabrous, . . ."[2] and, "leaflets 3 to 7, from narrowly spatulate to oblong-obovate, obtuse, obtusely few-toothed or entire, firm coriaceous, . . ."[3] *F. nummularis* Jones (Contr. West. Bot. 12: 59. 1908), "leaves mostly simple but sometimes trifoliate, the simple leaves oblanceolate to oval, . . . obtuse, glabrous, subcoriaceous."[4]

Plants were noted in the Chisos Mountains which fitted well each of these two descriptions, but there were also individuals which exhibited simple, trifoliate, and 5- and 7-foliate leaves all on the same main branch. This was repeatedly observed and is here cited as proof that *F. nummularis* Jones is merely a form of *F. Greggii* Gray.

A series of specimens illustrating this relationship is preserved in the author's personal herbarium at Cuero, Texas.

Phlox mesoleuca Greene is commonly scattered on the less wooded slopes of the Chisos Mountains from 5500 to 7000 feet

[1] Contr. Nat. Herb. **23**: 1135.
[2] Ibid., p. 1134
[3] Contr. Nat. Herb. **2**: 259.
[4] Contr. Nat. Herb. **23**: 1135.

altitude. On one cutover slope there was collected in 1931 and 1933 an albino form which differs from the type only in its white corolla and a somewhat greater robustness.

Phlox mesoleuca Greene f. **alba** f. nov. Leaves usually larger (as long as 5.5 cm.), darker green, and more hirsute than the type; corolla as wide as 3.8 cm. across and without a hint of the typical rose coloration.

Type specimens (Mueller no. 554) collected August 23, 1933 are preserved in the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, Illinois and in the author's herbarium at Cuero, Texas.

In a recent paper describing *Talinum Youngae* (Torreya 33: 148) the author unfortunately overlooked the close affinity of the species for *T. pulchellum* Woot. & Standl., a species known only from the type locality at Queen, New Mexico. *T. Youngae* and *T. pulchellum* may be distinguished by the singly disposed flowers of the latter on pedicels 1 cm. long in the axils of the leaves as opposed to the usually 3-flowered cymes of *T. Youngae* about 3 cm. long in the axils of the branches or terminal.

It was suggested at the time of its description that *T. Youngae* was closest related to *T. calycinum* Engelm. It seems, however, that *T. Youngae* and *T. pulchellum* form a natural group as do *T. calycinum* and *T. parviflorum* HBK. They may be distinguished as follows:

Inflorescence much elongated (rarely shorter than 10 cm.; usually about 20 cm.); leaves terete..... .....*T. calycinum*, *T. parviflorum*.

Inflorescence short (rarely 4 cm. long); leaves flattish.

Flowers solitary in the axils of the leaves on pedicels about 1 cm. long grouped near the top of the stem and hardly surpassing the leaves....*T. pulchellum*.

Flowers usually 3 in cymes in the axils of the branches or terminal, considerably surpassing the leaves but rarely 4 cm. long.....*T. Youngae*.

University of Texas
Austin, Tex.